

# The Blurb

A Publication of


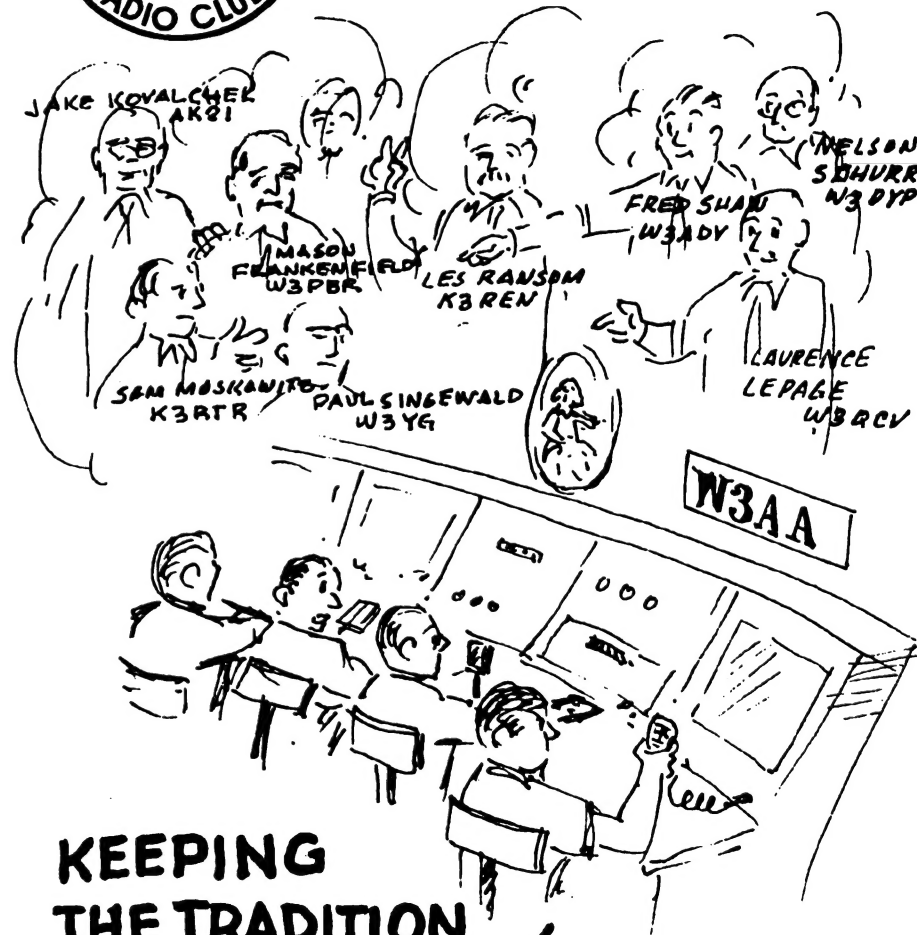
THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.  
c/o 641 KISMET ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19115-1114

**—NOTICE—**  
**General Meetings**  
**now held on 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Wednesday**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**


# The Blurb

March 1997

**KEEPING  
THE TRADITION  
*Alive!***

Celebrating 45 Years On The Air!



## VOLUME 47

## NUMBER 3

is published monthly by, and for, the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC. whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second non-holiday Wednesday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

Amateur Radio License Examinations are held on the first non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 p.m.—SHARP!

## CLUB INFORMATION

Mailing address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

Internet Web site: <http://www.comcat.com/pmrc>

E-mail: [pmrc@comcat.com](mailto:pmrc@comcat.com)

2-meter repeater: 147.03 MHz (Main site Roxborough receiver requires no PL, but outputs 91.5 Hz.)

Additional off-site receivers require the following subaudible tones:

Southampton 131.8 Hz—Center City 103.5 Hz—Lansdale 114.8 Hz—Broomall 85.4 Hz

70cm repeater: 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

Simplex: 147.51 MHz

24-hour club information at W3AA: 215-448-1139

## STATIONS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

W3EM - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

W3AA - (Formerly W3TKQ) The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I

The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate it.

W3AA packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz: w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

W3AA e-mail: w3aa@fi.edu

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: W3CH, Russ Stafford, RD-1 Box 426, New Castle, DE 19720 610-497-4590

[russ@hdj.com](mailto:russ@hdj.com)—w3ch@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

VICE PRESIDENT: W3GQD, Bill Chedeville, 1365 Mark Drive, West Chester, PA 19380 610-431-3498

[billch1@juno.com](mailto:billch1@juno.com)

SECRETARY: N3PVO, Carol Sebzda, 761 North Hills Avenue, Ardsley, PA 19038 215-884-5518

[csebzda@juno.com](mailto:csebzda@juno.com)

TREASURER: K2BN, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Dresher, PA 19025 215-542-5991

[k2bn@agtannenbaum.com](mailto:k2bn@agtannenbaum.com)

## DIRECTORS

W3BBB (98); WU3I (98); W3RM (98); AA3EP (97); K3GNM (97); K3KUD (97); KB3IV (A)

## COMMITTEES

Archives: W3IIN  
Audit: KE3OP  
Awards: AA3EP  
Blurb Folding: WB3KOH&J  
Budget: K3KUD  
Directory: WB3KOJ  
DX: NU3Y  
Education: W3CH  
Emerg. Coord.: N3XKE  
Field Day: N3IEI/W3RM  
Membership: W3LEN  
Net Control: KB3IV  
Program: W3GQD  
Public Service: AA3EP  
Publicity: N3IEI  
Refreshments: N3FVI  
Repeater: W3BBB  
Special Events: N3WCO  
Sunshine: WU3I  
TVI: W3VVS  
VE Program: ND3Q  
W3AA: KB3IV  
Welcome: N3PDO  
Youth: WN3PDB

## Blurb STAFF

Editor: W3IIM, Jack Haring  
2113 Edgehill Drive, Furlong, PA 18925

215-794-7623

[w3iim@chmc.com](mailto:w3iim@chmc.com)

Artist: N3QIE (471st issue)

Labels: WB3KOJ

DEADLINE: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the General Meeting!

## NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET
LAST WED	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	W3AA OPERATORS' NET

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 03 Butch Miller - KA3WVT
- Elaine Spencer (XYL W3BBB)
- 06 Marilyn Miller (XYL K3KNH)
- 07 June Faye (XYL W3RCE)
- 08 Ed Martino - KB2RGQ\*
- 09 Fayette Toren (XYL N2MT\*\*)
- 11 Gale Ackerman (XYL N3DO\*\*)
- Jim Parker - N3KGH
- 13 Maryann Martino (XYL KB2RGQ\*)
- 14 Peg Lamberti (XYL KE3NP)
- 15 Dottie Scialdone-Maresca - K3YPH
- 16 Kay Craigie - WT3P
- Susan Vece (XYL N3PWT)
- 17 Diane Henney (XYL KR2G\*\*)
- 21 Ben Roeshman - W3LKI
- Paul Trueax - WF2X
- 23 Henry Platt - W3UI
- Steve Rudnitsky - N3XTN\*
- Mort Vallow - WB3IXZ\*\*\*
- 25 Perry Blum - N3AXJ
- Richard Citrino Jr. - KB2TEZ\*
- Jerrie Haldeman (XYL W3PST)
- 27 William (Red) MacKenzie - N3QNP\*
- 28 Barbara Stein (XYL KB3AFH)
- 31 Ted Lada - N3FTZ

\* Indicates New Member - 1996-97

\*\* Indicates New Call

\*\*\* Indicates old member rejoined

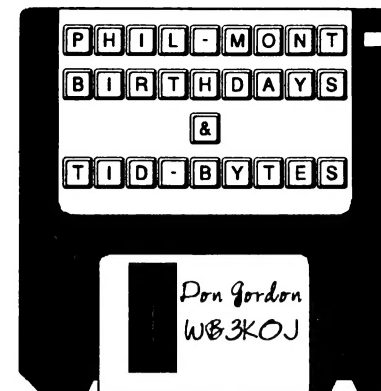
## LAST CALL

IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID BY THE END OF FEBRUARY, YOUR NAME WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE 1997 P.M.R.C. DIRECTORY, AND YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THE APRIL *Blurb*.

## HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership? Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club ... contact our Treasurer MIKE TANNENBAUM, K2BN, for details.

**"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"**—for the courtesy ☺!



## NEW CALLS

AA3CH ➡ W3CH

KA4LIF ➡ KF4i

*Membership stats will resume in April.*



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

CALL: **WB2BTB**  
 NAME: **Alice Tannenbaum**  
 HANDLE: **Alice**  
 CLASS: **Technician Plus**  
 ADDRESS: **545 Cardinal Drive  
 Dresher, PA  
 19025**  
 OCCUPATION: **Executive**  
 HOME PHONE: **215-542-5991**  
 BUSINESS PHONE: **215-540-8055**  
 E-MAIL: **wa2btb@agtannenbaum.com**  
 PACKET:  
 COMMITTEES:

CALL: **N3XKD**  
 NAME: **John Kreno**  
 HANDLE: **John**  
 CLASS: **Technician**  
 ADDRESS: **1411 Orange Street  
 Philadelphia, PA  
 19125**  
 OCCUPATION: **Student**  
 HOME PHONE: **215-432-0820**  
 BUSINESS PHONE:  
 E-MAIL:  
 PACKET:  
 COMMITTEES: **Youth**

CALL: **N3XPZ**  
 NAME: **Brian Schnitzer**  
 HANDLE:  
 CLASS: **Technician**  
 ADDRESS: **1979 Ambassador Street  
 Philadelphia, PA  
 19115**  
 OCCUPATION: **Balance Tech.**  
 HOME PHONE: **215-673-3875**  
 BUSINESS PHONE: **215-698-0800**  
 E-MAIL:  
 PACKET:  
 COMMITTEES: **Sunshine**

CALL: **KE7YE**  
 NAME: **Michael Van Meter**  
 HANDLE: **Mike**  
 CLASS: **Advanced**  
 ADDRESS: **7703A Lucretia Mott Way  
 Elkins Park, PA  
 19027**  
 OCCUPATION:  
 HOME PHONE: **215-884-7449**  
 BUSINESS PHONE: **215-335-3000**  
 E-MAIL: **vanmeter@voicenet.com**  
 PACKET:  
 COMMITTEES:

CALL: **N3YGG**  
 NAME: **Hernan Miranda**  
 HANDLE:  
 CLASS: **Technician Plus**  
 ADDRESS: **4345 E. Cheltenham Ave.  
 Philadelphia, PA  
 19124**  
 OCCUPATION: **Mental Health Professional**  
 HOME PHONE: **215-533-3152**  
 BUSINESS PHONE: **215-634-7060**  
 E-MAIL:  
 PACKET:  
 COMMITTEES: **Directory, Education,  
 Sunshine**

**Come to a Phil-Mont  
 meeting, and see what  
 all the talk is about!**

## The PREZ SEZ

Russ Stafford, W3CH



This month started our working hard for PMRC. Our officers should get a big hand for not taking the easy way out. They have resolved many hard issues such as our nonprofit status, and moving towards 501(c)(3)—we are now 501(c)(7). The big thing that I have noted is that our Board of Directors tries very hard not to table any issues. They work through, and act on a resolution.

Mike (K2BN) unveiled our new computerized accounting system. What a difference! It looks great.

Our General Meeting went well, although I was a little late. I was out picking up members who needed a ride to the meeting. We should all try to help folks in similar circumstances. If you need a ride, or can offer a ride, check into the 2-meter Sunday morning net, and let net control know.

Gee it was great to see the Choices Forum full with Phil-monsters once again. Bill (W3GQD) has done a fine job on programs this year. Our March program will be a Pizza Party hosted by the National M.S. Society. There will be a short video about the bike tour. Also, we will have a Cushman service monitor, so you may check your frequency and deviation. This will be self-service.

This spring we have a few club projects that we will need your help with. First will be the M.S. Super City Walks on April 13 and 20. If you can help-out at one or more of the walks contact Charlie

(AA3EP). Next, will be Field Day in June. If we are going to make a real showing, we need everyone to pitch in. You'll want to contact Chris (N3IEI) or Dick (W3RM). Please don't wait 'till the last minute; sign up early.

Here's a new one for you, The President's Award. The member who signs up the most new members (over two), between now and October 1997, will have his/her 1998 dues paid. If you need a new application, you may download it from the Phil-Mont Internet Web site, or obtain one from Len (W3LEN), membership chairperson, Donald (WB3KOJ), or most officers. Do not use the old applications for the contest. Write your call in the upper right hand corner of the application.

The big thing as I finish the Prez Sez for March, is I just got from the good old FCC my new call "W3CH." Now, so much to change—repeaters (Metro-Com) BBSs and node stacks. Then there is Donald (WB3KOJ) changing the directory, and Jack (W3IIM) changing the *Blur* and the Web sites. Also, I have to contact the ARRL to have the PMRC report updated, and get a new VEC badge. It never ends (grin). Remember to update your home BBS address, if you used "@aa3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam", you are now "@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam" (third rock from the sun).

Well that's it from here. I hope to see you all at the Pizza Party in March! ☺

## UPCOMING

- Mar 5 Directors' Meeting at  
KB3AFH's
- Mar 6 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute
- Mar 12 **General Meeting Program:  
Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Pizza Party!**  
~ ~ ~
- Apr 2 Directors' Meeting at  
W3GQD's
- Apr 3 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute
- Apr 9 **General Meeting Program:  
Kay Craigie, WT3P  
Director, ARRL Atlantic Division**  
~ ~ ~
- Future Programs**  
May Digital HDTV—W3NE  
June Phil-Mont's Repeaters—W3BBB  
*There will be no General Meetings  
in July and August.*

## HAMFESTS

- Mar 1 ABSECON, NJ  
Shore Points ARC
- Mar 23 TRENTON, NJ  
Delaware Valley RA
- Apr 5-6 TIMONIUM, MD  
Baltimore ARC
- Apr 20 NEW CASTLE, DE  
Penn-Del ARC
- May 4 WRIGHTSTOWN, PA  
Warminster ARC
- May 16-18 DAYTON, OH  
Hamvention

## V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must two means of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. **The ARRL VEC's 1997 test fee is \$6.25; there is no charge for a Novice test.**

- **THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**  
Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q  
215- 879-0505 day, 215- 448-1139 24-hours
- **BELLMAWR, NJ**  
William O'Donnell  
609-939-3032
- **BRISTOL**  
George LeNoir  
215-943-4886
- **LINWOOD, PA—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)**  
Russ Stafford, AA3CH  
610-497-4590
- **NORRISTOWN**  
Raymond Patton  
610-279-1897
- **TELFORD**  
Joseph Burgess  
215-723-6697
- **UNIVERSITY OF PA**  
Jeff DePolo  
215- 898-8538 shack, 215-337-7383 home
- **WARMINSTER**  
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ  
(215) 343-3494
- **WILMINGTON**  
Giselle Walls  
302-478-2757

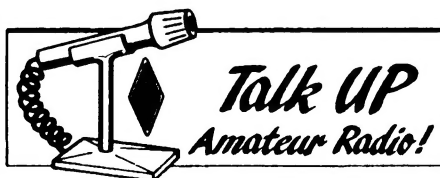
## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP 610-323-1050

aa3ep@aol.com

Russ Stafford, russ@hdj.com

- April 13 M.S. walk  
April 20 M.S. walk (details on page 13)  
Sept 27-28 M.S. 150 city to shore bike tour



and 430 to 450 MHz. The ARRL and AM-SAT were among those objecting to the concept, and the League is urging those who agree with their position to comment to the FCC by March 4. IWG-2A has been preparing draft proposals for the 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-97). These will be reviewed during a March 5 meeting of the FCC's WRC-97 Industry Advisory Committee that is preparing draft proposals for consideration by the United States as it gets ready for WRC-97

\* **Identifying former call sign holders:** Some vanity call sign holders have become interested in the genealogy of their new call signs and want to know who the former holders were. While we don't have the resources to track down this information at HQ, those interested might try the FCC's

official duplicating contractor, International Transcription Service (ITS). Among other things, ITS can research amateur call signs to determine when they were first issued and to whom. The cost of this service varies depending on the volume and research time involved. Research time is \$15 per hour, billed in quarter-hour increments. Requests can take up to one business week. Additional charges apply for expedited service. ITS is located in the FCC's Gettysburg Office. Write ITS Inc, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Suite 24, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245; tel 717-337-1433; fax 717-337-3409.—Tom Hogerty, KC1J

*The ARRL Letter*

## And from the "Slightly Delayed" mailbag:

Dear Phil-Mont:

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone, and my happiest and healthiest wishes to all. It has been a long time since I have seen most of you. I hope everyone is still doing well. Since I left Philly I have been missing a great many people from Phil-Mont, as well as some of the other area repeaters.

I look cheerfully to returning to Philadelphia. 'Hope that a visit to W3TKQ, and Phil-Mont will be forthcoming in the next few months.

Anyone wishing to contact me would be best served to do so via email at either of the following two addresses: stuart@cybernet.ch or stuart@starone.com

Happy holidays to everyone.

Stuart, N3GWG, Beverly Hills, CA

oOO—( )—OOo



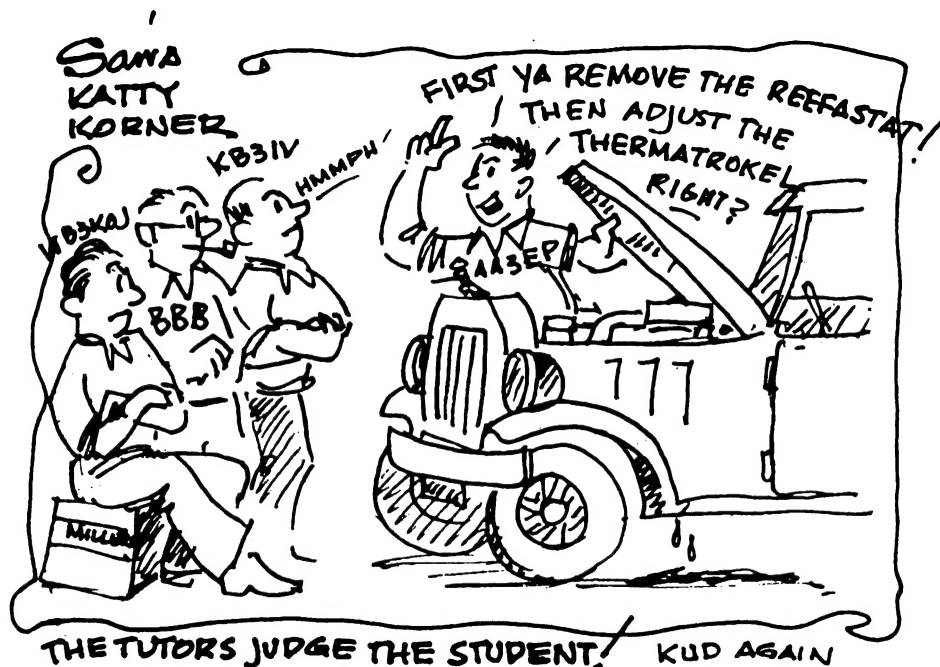
## The ARRL is more than just a magazine subscription!

\* Au revoir, CW! French maritime radio authorities phased out the use of Morse code on January 31, after 93 years, in favor of newer technology. The US Coast Guard abandoned CW two years ago.—Press reports (tnx to George Chaet, W1RGH)

\* Ham-doctor helps Brazilian child: Dr Jeff Zlotnick, KB2EVB, of Easton, Pennsylvania, was able to provide some over-the-air aid via phone patch when the call went out from PP8ZBL on the Maritime Net February 1, requesting help for a sick child in Brazil. Zlotnick asked for information on the child's condition, and made some recommendations for assistance, which PP8ZBL said they would follow. Bob Puharic, WF3H, of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, monitored the call and made the patch to

KB2EVB. Both are members of the Delaware-Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club.—Clarence Snyder, W3PYF

\* Commercial satellite interests seeking access to bands below 1 GHz—including amateur allocations at 146 and 430 MHz—now have added 220 MHz to their "wish list." For the first time, Little LEO (low-earth-orbiting satellite) interests have proposed including 219-225 MHz in their list of desired allocations for the non-voice, non-geostationary (NVNG) mobile-satellite service (MSS). The move was contained in the industry's so-called "flexible allocation proposal," delivered at the February 13, 1997, meeting of FCC Informal Working Group (IWG) 2A. Little LEO targets now include 146 to 148, 219 to 225



## MINUTES

### FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary



The 564th General Meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm by Russ (AA3CH), president, who welcomed everyone, and then proceeded with the business at hand. A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. The following committees reported:

**MEMBERSHIP**—Stephanie (N3XKW) reported 8 applications this year, with 6 new members, and 6 applications pending board approval. The newest members were welcomed, Mike (N3XLP), Steve (KB2RTZ), Ed (KB2SVG) and Steve (N3XTN). Badges will be in soon. *A reminder:* the membership application can be downloaded from the web site <http://www.comcat.com/pmrc>.

**NET CONTROL**—Ed (KB3IV) welcomed George (N3JDM) as the newest 75m net control operator. We still need more CW control operators. Thanks to Bill (WA3NSP) for a great job.

**PROGRAM**—Bill (W3GQD) reported that meetings have been scheduled through June. See schedule elsewhere in this issue. If you have any input for a program contact Bill.

**PUBLIC SERVICE**—Charlie (AA3EP) reported several events upcoming. The MS Walk has two dates, *April 13th*: Phila. Center City, Tyler State Park, Lynwood NJ., Moorestown NJ., and Gloucester Township NJ. Also *April 20th*: Ridley State Park, Valley Forge and Vorhees NJ. Also coming up on April 13th is a new event this year—the Horsham Rotary Club Bikeathon. Your

help is needed for all the upcoming events. Contact Charlie if interested.

**SUNSHINE**—Russ (AA3CH) reported that Gene (N3XKE) was in the University of Pennsylvania Hospital and was feeling much better.

**W3AA**—Ed (KB3IV) thanked Mike (N3PDO), Mike (N3TRO), and Charlie (WN3PDB) for their help over the weekend with the camp-in at The Franklin Institute. Al (W3STW) brought up the need for a straight key at the station to be used by visitors.

**WELCOME**—Mike (N3PDO) reported 33 people attending, 27 members and 7 visitors.

**Blurb**—Jack (W3IIM) reported that his deadline is now the weekend after the General Meeting.

**TREASURER**—Mike (K2BN) reported the club to be on budget with \$2,100 in receipts and \$200 in disbursements this month.

**NEW BUSINESS**—Jack (W3IIM) addressed the possibility of receiving the *Blurb* electronically, in lieu of hard copy. The audience was asked to raise their hands if interested. The idea was met rather unfavorably.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting was closed by Russ (AA3CH) at 8:10 pm, and turned over to Bill (W3GQD) who introduced us to Paul Bohlander (W3VVS) for his program on Antique Radios.

See you at the next meeting. ☺

## MINUTES

## FEBRUARY DIRECTORS' MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary

The February Directors' Meeting was opened at 8:03 pm by Russ (AA3CH). The following committees reported:

**TREASURER**—Mike (K2BN) gave his report on the club's finances. Total receipts were \$2,197.20, total disbursements were \$276.61 with a net change in funds of \$1,920.59.

**MEMBERSHIP**—Russ (AA3CH) reported we had four applicants to vote on, Steven Bromhead (KB2RTZ), Michael Marter (N3XLP), Edmond Holohan (KB2SVG), and Steven Rudnitsky (N3XTN). The motion was made and approved to accept the applicants into membership. Welcome to all.

**FIELD DAY**—Dick (W3RM) read a letter from Chris (N3IEI), "Paper work is being drawn to reserve our site. Band committees have *not* been formed as reported in the February *Blurb*. Consideration will be given to previous participants, as to their placement, before awarding bands to others. When a list of volunteers is compiled, locations will be assigned, special consideration will be given to those bringing their own equipment. A volunteer is needed, someone with knowledge in the logging program and computers, who will be responsible for the laptops during Field Day, and for compiling all the data after the event." Contact Dick (W3RM) or Chris (N3IEI) with your Field Day interests.

**W3AA**—STEVE (WU3I) reported the station will run as a special event station for the entire month of March.

**OLD BUSINESS**—The sale of 1.44 disks will be headed by Gene (N3XKE).

**NEW BUSINESS**—There was a discussion on changing the Board Of Directors' meeting from the third Wednesday of the month to the first Wednesday. The motion was made and approved by the Board. In conjunction with the previous change, a motion was made for a change in the club bylaws to read the meeting night for the General Meeting and the Directors' Meetings to be as determined by the Board Of Directors. The motion was approved.

The club's tax status was discussed further, and after weighing the pros and cons, the motion was made for the club to proceed with filing for tax exempt 501(c)(3) status. The motion was approved. A motion was also approved for applying for a credit card from Staples to be used for the club's printing expenses.

A discussion also ensued on the clubs ARCC membership and a motion was made to bypass paying our membership for this year, with the option to be reviewed again next year. The motion was approved.

The meeting was closed by Russ (AA3CH) at 9:30 pm. A special thanks to Alice and Mike Tannenbaum for hosting the meeting. ☺

### CLUB INFORMATION

24 Hour Information Number at W3AA  
(215) 448-1139

playable satellite phone booths are designed to provide public access to Iridium in remote areas without telecommunications. The first three Iridium satellites are scheduled to be launched next month from a 250 ton Delta rocket. Russian and Chinese rockets will also launch future Iridium satellites.  
*W5YI Report via The BRATS*

Buy a 500 qty. carton and split with your friends. Larger quantities - inquire for handling details. This is a PMRC endeavor for the benefit of club projects with several purposes: ie. keep the W3AA volunteer radio station at The Franklin Institute in top condition; maintain the network of club repeater stations; mailing and Blurb publishing costs, etc..

See or call coordinator: Gene, N3XKE (215-482-2456) who has volunteered to arrange ordering and local pickup.

Payment is to the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club.

### DONATED FOR BENEFIT OF W3AA

\$8 per hundred in lots of 500 or more.  
Packaged 500 per carton. (\$40)

HAM IV rotator & controller ..... \$150  
Contact Steve, WU3I at 215-535-8061

## GOODIES

### FOR SALE - Club project:

3½", 1.4 mb computer diskettes. These are top grade surplus disks to be formatted and re-labeled.

\$10 per hundred, (minimum quantity) packed in plastic.

\$8 per hundred in lots of 500 or more.  
Packaged 500 per carton. (\$40)



# LEOS

What's all the fuss about?

## SATELLITE CELLULAR PHONES ARE ON THE WAY

*GMPCS - Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite*

What started out as a wild idea by ham operator Bary Bertiger, WA7UKR, is about to become reality! It is an unbelievable story. It seems that in 1985, Bary's wife Karen wanted to place a phone call from a remote area in the Bahamas back to their home in Chandler, AZ.

That got Bertiger, a Motorola engineer, and now V.P. and general manager of its satellite systems group, thinking. "Why not create a satellite based cellular telephone system in the sky?" Instead of the user moving through a cell, the satellite would move overhead to the user.

Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites such as AMSAT's phase 3D orbit the earth every couple of hours at a height of a few hundred miles above the earth. Their communications range depends on the orbit. Since their moving footprint is only about 2,000 miles in diameter, a global communications LEO system requires a large number of satellites. Little LEOs use a single satellite. Big LEO systems need multiple satellites. And like a terrestrial cellular system it needs to be able to hand over the service to the next neighboring satellite. WARC-92 allocated the mobile satellite service (MSS) spectrum needed. (1610-1626.5 MHz and 2483.5-2500 MHz).

Since geostationary satellites orbit the earth at a height of 22,300 miles, it takes a quarter of a second for voice transmissions to make the 44,000 mile trip. Besides being

less expensive, there is no round-trip delay in LEO satellite systems. They can make the round trip almost instantly. The low altitude of Iridium satellites allows easy radio links with portable cellular radiotelephones on earth, using small antennas rather than satellite dishes. It also supports the reuse of frequencies in a similar fashion to land-based cellular systems. Motorola's Iridium system will be able to provide a global personal communications network including voice, data, fax, or paging. Its 66 interconnected satellites will orbit 420 nautical miles above the earth. Its footprint will consist of 48 spot beams covering the entire earth's surface. The scientific community has nicknamed the system "Bigfoot" since every point on the earth's surface is in continuous line-of-sight with one of the satellites. Each satellite is connected to four others and has a lifetime design life of five to eight years.

Iridium uses two frequency bands. The subscriber and LEO satellites are connected via the L-band (1616-1626.5 MHz). The Ka band (29.2 GHz uplink/19.5 GHz downlink) is used between the satellite and terrestrial gateways which will interface with the public switched telephone network (PSTN). Intersatellite cross-links take place at 23.2 GHz. The digital standard will be Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) which was accepted by the cellular industry in 1989.

The cost of an Iridium phone call is rumored to be \$3 per minute at the beginning. Certainly not cheap! Batteries will yield one hour of talk time, and 24 hours of standby. Solar powered portable and rede-

## 142<sup>ND</sup> MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS FEBRUARY

18 candidates took 37 elements  
4 new amateur plus 4 upgrades

VE team members:

Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman

Sam Lewis, N3GPQ, Darryl Russell, AA3NV; Jim McCloskey, KE3OP;

Jeff Kerber, KE3UV; Larry Clifford, W3UY; Bob Freer, W3YLT; Gene Gadlin, K3YW

AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST  
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE  
SCIENCE MUSEUM

For Information Call ND3Q at  
(215) 448-1139 or 879-0505

Accessible by the handicapped.



THE  
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REPORT

**O**n March 5, 1952 a new ham radio station came to be. The call letters W3TKQ were issued to the station at The Franklin Institute. Fred Shaw W3ADV-SK was the trustee, and with the assistance of the Haverford Township Emergency Radio Net, on April 5, 1952 the station went on the air.

Located on the second floor just inside the main entrance, it consisted of only 2 and 10-meter home-built equipment. In 1954 a new Hallicrafters receiver was donated, and a Johnson Viking I transmitter and a Mosley Tri-Band Beam were acquired.

In 1962 the station was rebuilt by our own Jim Spencer W3QQH (now W3BBB), and at the same time, the Collins Company donated approximately \$5,000 in equipment to the station. Fred remained trustee through 1975 and through several changes of the station. One of the more significant changes was when the stewardship of the station was handed over to The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club in 1960.

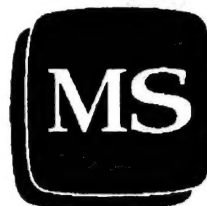
Following Fred as trustee was Rolland Madara, W3PWG who remained in this position until August 1994. During his tenure the station was moved two times—in 1975 to the opposite end of the second floor, near the lightning exhibit, and in 1986 to the fourth floor, its current location.

In 1982 John Tinaglia, W3AWH-SK campaigned to replace the aging Collins equipment. With the help of Hamtronics of Trevese, Pa, a brand new station was obtained from Drake. It consisted of a TR7 transceiver, L7 amplifier, Mn-2700 matching network, RV-7 VFO, Theta 7000E communications Terminal, and TR-930 video monitor. In the fall of 1984 a new Telrex beam was installed.

By 1990 the station had become neglected, and the Museum came forward with plans that did not include W3TKQ. Jake Kovalchek, AK2i-SK, with the assistance of Kay Craigie, KC3LM (now WT3P, our ARRL Atlantic Division Director) sprang into action. They made the case for the station to remain, and embarked on a year-long fund-raising project which refurbished and repaired the station to its current status. Again with the help of Jim Spencer W3BBB, our member who built the prior two stations, W3TKQ was once again reborn.

The new station was unveiled on October 23, 1991 by the

Internet: <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>



## NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

The society helps more than 7,400 local individuals and their family members cope with the devastating effects of the disease: multiple sclerosis. Serving 17 counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the MS Society provides services, programs and funds research into a cause and cure.

How can you get involved? It's easy. There are many events where volunteers like you are needed.

The MS WALK in April takes place in 13 convenient locations

with more than 10,000 people participating. It's a great way to meet new friends and help a great cause at the same time.

The MS150 City to Shore Bike Tour, the largest of its kind on the East Coast, takes place in September. Cyclists ride 150 miles in 2 days to raise money for a cure. Join the fun on a final weekend at the Jersey shore.

Volunteers and help those with MS. One person CAN make a difference. ☺

### April 13, 1997

<u>Site Contact</u>	<u>Club</u>
Center City Phila., Pa. ....	Charlie, AA3EP .... OTHG*
Tyler State Park, Bucks Co. ....	Ellen, AA3AI ..... PWA
Linwood, Nj. Atlantic Co. Nj. ....	Larry, N2CRK ..... SPARK
Moorestown, Nj. ....	Doug, K2QWQ ..... Burlington Co. RACES
Washington Township, Nj. ....	Steve, KB2RTZ ..... PMRC/OTHG

### April 20, 1997

Ridley Creek State Park, Delaware Co., Pa. .	Russ, W3CH ..... PMRC/OTHG
Valley Forge Park, Chester Co. Pa. ....	Charlie, AA3EP .... PMRC/OTHG
Hibernia Park, Coatesville Pa. ....	Ginny, N3RUK ..... OTHG
Voorhees, Nj. ....	Jean, N2YKN ..... Camden Co. ARES

\* 96 Over The Hill Gang



## PACKET PACKET PACKET!

The Packet network is working very well throughout the Delaware Valley. The K3HD BBS now has direct Telnet into the Internet, Call book on line Sat-server on line K3HD is on 145.03 and serves north of the city. With new BBS's now on the air and new back bones in place. One of the big problems that we at Phil-Mont as I wrote last month is bad address on our packet list server, as well as on the e-mail list server.

The Following stations have bad Packet address NU3Y, N3TRO, N3RCS, KA4LIF, N3KQH, KB2GA, N3FSC. If you could pick a new packet address (new home BBS) see the January *Blurb*. Then, please let Donald-WB3KOJ know of your updated info. before the new directory comes out, so that you are correct for 1997/98.  
73 Russ

## DX Report....

Joe Pearlstein, NU3Y

**5R - Madagascar** Maurizio, 5R8FH, is a missionary in Madagascar and is active on 20 and 15 with 80 watts to a 3 el. yagi. QSL via IIPIN.

**5X - Uganda** Gus, 5X1D, returned to Uganda at the end of January. This time he will concentrate on VHF & UHF but will also be doing some operating on 80 & 160. QSL via SM0BFJ. If you want to arrange a sked, e-mail to: jageror@wfp.or.ug

**8Q7 - Sri Lanka** HB9DIF & DL8NBE are planning on being active during March as 8Q7BV & 8Q7BE. More details via e-mail hb9dif@hb9eas.che.eu ☺

**Virus hoaxes abound on Internet**  
[www.datafellows.fi/news/hoax.htm](http://www.datafellows.fi/news/hoax.htm)

## General Meeting Program 2nd Wednesday

### The Multiple Sclerosis Society's Pizza Party and Tune-up!

Our March program will be hosted by the National M.S. Society. There will be a short video about the bike tour. Also, we will have a Cushman service monitor, so you may check your frequency and deviation. This will be self-service.

late Gioia Marconi Braga, the daughter of Guglielmo Marconi. The station consisted of a seven position, 26-foot long console. The operating positions included UHF & VHF FM, Packet BBS, Amsat Satellite, two HF positions and Fast Scan TV.

There are now four computers, ten transceivers, five HF antennas, nine VHF and UHF antennas, and hundreds of feet of coax and control cables. The station was featured on the cover of QST Magazine in July 1992.

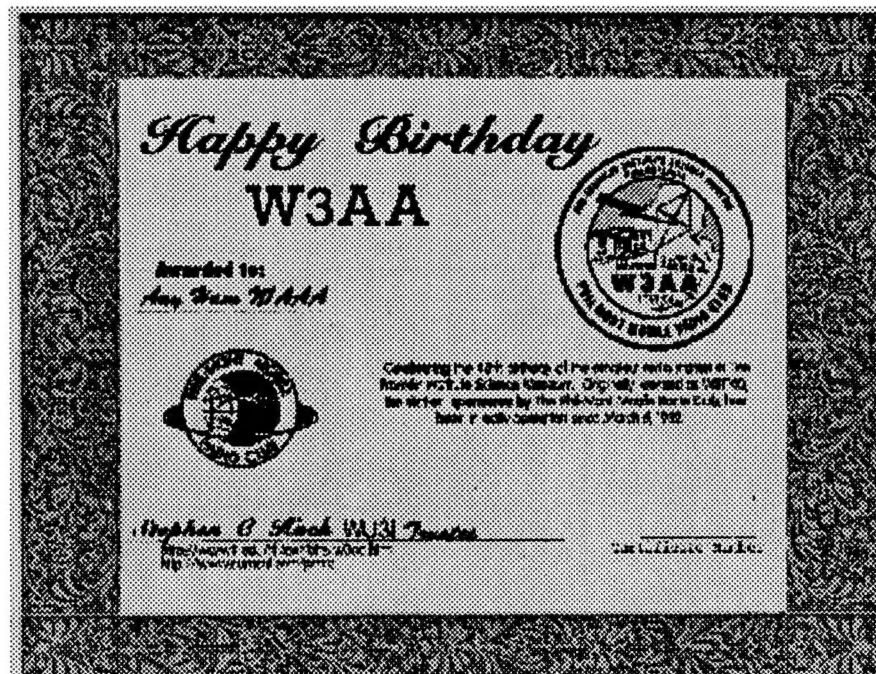
In August 1994, Rolland Madara, W3PWG, at the age of 83, requested relief of duty as trustee, and recommended me for the job. So far, I have had the pleasure of managing this wonderful sta-

tion for over two years, with at least 18 to go, if I am to equal the record of my predecessors.

After adding the Slow Scan Television system in 1991, the next matter of change was to take advantage of the ARRL Vanity Call Sign Program. In August 1996, the call of W3AA, a deceased former member of the club, was issued to the station.

Come down and join us at the station during the month of March to help us celebrate the 45th birthday of our fine station. Also, if you contact the station, you'll receive a personalized certificate.

As always remember It's Your Station. COME ON DOWN AND HAVE SOME FUN WITH US!!! ☺



Work the station during the month of March, and earn this personalized certificate commemorating its 45th birthday!

1997

## MARCH

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> 2M NCS N3FTY 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS W3PWG	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM WA3NSP	<b>5</b> DIRECTORS' MEETING at KB3AFH's	<b>6</b> LICENSE EXAMS at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 p.m. sharp	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Absecon Hamfest</i> <b>1</b>
<b>9</b> 2M NCS WA3NSP 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS W3STW	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM N3FVI	<b>12</b> GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 2M NCS N3OWM 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS N3JDM	<b>17</b> <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	<b>18</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Vernal Equinox-8:55am</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 2M NCS W3STW 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS KB3IV <i>Palm Sunday Trenton Hamfest</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM WA3NSP	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 2M NCS W3BBB 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS W3BBB <i>Easter</i>	<b>31</b>	<b>NEW MEETING SCHEDULE</b> Directors' meetings now held on the FIRST non-holiday Wednesday. General meetings now held on the SECOND non-holiday Wednesday.				Liberty is the one thing you can't have unless you give it to others.

